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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAM-01 IO-11 /091 W
---------- 067358
R 050034Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2843
INFO DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 1562

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IS, MX
SUBJECT: CONSIDERATIONS RE FONMIN ALLON'S VISIT TO MEXICO

REF: A. MEXICO 336 (NOTAL B. TEL AVIV 629 (NOTAL)
C. MEXICO 1234 (NOTAL)

1. DURING A CALL ON ME FEB 3, ISRAELI AMBASSADOR AYNOR SAID THAT HE WAS CONCERNED THAT TWO THINGS MIGHT SPOIL FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON'S VISIT TO MEXICO WHICH IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN MARCH OR APRIL. FIRST AND FOREMOST, HE WAS WORRIED THAT THE RECENT VISIT OF TWO PALESTINIAN OFFICIALS TO MEXICO MIGHT SIGNAL NEW MOVEMENT TO OPEN A PLO OFFICE HERE. IN THE ISRAELIS' VIEW, OPENING OF A PLO OFFICE IN MEXICO WOULD BE HARMFUL TO BILATERAL RELATIONS AT ANY TIME BUT PARTICULARLY IF THIS CAME BEFORE, DURING OR ON THE HEELS OF ALLON'S VISIT. I REPLIED THAT I HAD NOT HEARD THAT THERE HAD BEEN ANY MOVEMENT TO SET UP A PLO OFFICE HERE AND THAT AS OF LAST FALL, THE PROBLEM SEEMED TO BE THAT THE PLO WANTED THE GOM TO GIVE THEM FREE OFFICE SPACE AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN ESTABLISHING AN OFFICE HERE. AYNOR SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD THESE RUMORS AND HAD ASSUMED THAT THE PLO, WHICH HAD AMPLE FUNDS AVAILABLE, WAS MORE INTERESTED IN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
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AS A MORAL COMMITMENT FROM THE GOM THAN IN MONEY PER SE.

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2. THE SECOND POSSIBLE EVENT WHICH MIGHT SPOIL ALLON'S VISIT ACCORDING TO AYNOR WAS TITO'S POSTPONED VISIT WHICH REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR MARCH. NOTINV THAT TITO HAD CLOSE TIES WITH THE ARABS AND HAD OFTEN MADE PRO-ARAB AND ANTI-ISRAELI STATEMENTS IN PUBLIC, AYNOR SAID THAT HE HOPED TITO'S VISIT WOULD NOT BE SCHEDULED TO COINCIDE WITH OR CLOSE TO ALLON'S VISIT.

3. AYNOR DESCRIBED THE STATE OF MEXICAN-ISRAELI BILATERAL RELATIONS AS GOOD. FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID THAT THE GOM WILL PURCHASE TEN MORE ARAVA STOL AIRCRAFT (AN ELEVEN MILLION DOLLAR SALE) IN ADDITION TO THE FIVE ALREADY OWNED BY THE DEVENSE MINISTRY. HE ADDED THAT A MEXICAN TECHNICAL MISSION HAS JUST LEFT FOR ISRAEL TO STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A JOINT VENTURE ASSEMBLY PLANT FOR ARAVA AIRCRAFT IN MEXICO. AS THE MEXICANS ENVISION THIS PLANT, IT WILL SUPPLY NOT ONLY THEIR DOMESTIC NEEDS, BUT ALSO THOSE OF CERTAIN OTHER LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS. (COMMENT: THIS APPEARS TO BE A REVIVAL OF A PLAN TO CONSTRUCT AN ARAVA ASSEMBLY AND MAINTENANCE PLANT IN THE YUCATAN PENINSULA. AFTER A FLURRY OF PUBLICITY A YEAR AND A HALF AGO, NO MORE WAS HEARD ABOUT THIS PROJECT UNTIL NOW. END COMMENT). IN ADDITION, THE ISRAELIS ARE SUPPLYING MEXICO WITH FERTILIZER PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY, AN AREA VITAL TO MEXICO'S AGRIGULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, AYNOR POINTED OUT THAT THE MEXICANS ARE SUPPLYING ISRAEL WITH CRUDE OIL WHICH IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE THIS IS A NON-ARAB, NON-OPEC SOURCE. (COMMENT: OFFICIALS OF MEXICO'S OIL MONOPOLY, PEMEX, ARE PLEASED TO HAVE ISRAEL AS CUSTOMER BECAUSE THEY PAY ON TIME AND ARE RELIABLE AND EASY TO DEAL WITH. THIS RELATIONSHIP DATES BACK TO THE FALL OF 1974 WHEN MEXICO BEGAN TO EXPORT OIL. AT THAT TIME ISRAEL WAS PEMEX'S THIRD LARGEST CUSTOMER. 1975 EXPORT FIGURES ARE NOT AVAILABLE YET.)
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